GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3554
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
EIGHT POINT PROGRAMME
ANANTA NAYAK;LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have a proposal to implement Eight Point Programme of the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the year in which the programme would be implemented; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTEI OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (d): The Prime Minister in his opening remarks at the meeting of the Prime Minister`s Economic Advisory Council held on 13th July, 2002, briefly touched upon the following eight critical development related challenges that need to be overcome in accelerating our GDP growth rate to 8% and beyond. The list was, however, not exhaustive.

(i) Improvement of the implementation capabilities across the board in the Government.

(ii) Speeding up of the economic reforms so that India becomes a clear-cut market economy, with the Government withdrawing from production, barring a few clearly specified strategic sectors and further strengthening its role in policy- making, regulation and facilitation.

(iii) Broadening and deepening the scope of public-private partnership in education, healthcare, shelter, sanitation, care of the aged and the poor, and promotion of sports, arts and culture.

(iv) Ensuring that the growth is employment-oriented growth, and not jobless growth or growth with less jobs.

(v) Removing the imperfections that are plaguing our financial markets and to ensure that the poor and the unorganized sector have access to savings, credit, and insurance services.

(vi) Reduction and re-targeting of subsidies, so that the essential consumption of the poor, including social services, is protected, but the overall fiscal deficit is reduced. Barring those who deserve subsidy, develop a culture of making all others pay for what they use.

(vii) Expanding and modernizing various aspects of connectivity − both physical and digital.

(viii) Closely aligning our long-term growth strategy to our strategy on population, accelerating the demographic transition, revealed in the 2001 census with a goal to achieve total fertility rate reaching replacement levels within the time frame given in the National Population Policy, and to ensure that a greater proportion of the population is of working age, and savings rates increase further.

The Tenth Five Year Plan is the primary vehicle to address these challenges, which is under finalisation.